



Alameda County Farm Bureau

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August 10, 2000

RECEIVED

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Alameda County Board of Directors has many concerns about the final Cal-Fed EIS/EIR released in July. There needs to be more time to review this long environmental report. More public hearings need to be held to inform the people about, as the Cal-Fed plan admits, the "irreversible and irretrievable" impact on almost a quarter-of-a-million acres of California farmland with no plans to replace this lost valuable land.

Cal-Fed should be encouraging farmers to maintain voluntary habitat-conservation efforts without restricting the productivity of the land. However Cal-Fed interest in farmland seems to be directed in the value of sustaining fish and wildlife-not for its value in sustaining people.

Farmers are well aware of the need of enough available water to meet environmental goals, especially in dry years. The best way to achieve this goal is to have aboveground reservoirs to capture more of the high water flows during wet winters. Without such reservoirs, water will be taken away from farms to sustain environmental and urban uses during droughts.

These are just a few of our concerns and because the Cal-Fed plan appears to have changed as a result of the "framework agreement" signed in June-we feel there needs to be more time to evaluate the new report and more public hearings need to be held. This



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would help to assure the public understands the plan before taking final action. It would also offer people another chance to express their points of view.

Sincerely,



Sue Russo
Executive Manager

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 State Sen. Liz Figueroa State Sen. Don Perata State Sen. Richard Rainey
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